



## STATE *of* MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota's overall teen birth rate has steadily declined during the past decade, decreasing from 28.5 in 2007 to 13.7 in 2015 per 1,000 births, compared to the national teen birth rate of 22.3, a decrease from 42.5 in 2007 per 1,000 births; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota currently has the sixth lowest teen birth rate in the country; and
- WHEREAS: Striking disparities in teen pregnancy and birth rates remain for those living in poverty, for racial and ethnic minorities, by geographic location, and among vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS: Teen pregnancy is a public health issue that is associated with numerous immediate and life-long economic and social impacts that affect both teen parents and their children; and
- WHEREAS: Unintended pregnancies create a variety of challenges for teenage parents and their children, including a higher likelihood of premature birth and low birth weight, less stable living conditions, and increased infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS: Young people are less likely to get pregnant or get someone pregnant if they have access to open communication with caring adults around sexual health; supportive parents and caregivers; accurate knowledge about abstinence and contraception, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections; and access to reproductive health services; and
- WHEREAS: The continued reduction in teen pregnancy and birth rates can only be achieved through partnerships between communities and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Health joins with the Office of Adolescent Health, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Advocates for Youth, and dedicated local public health agencies, youth serving organizations, volunteers, health care professionals, and communities in bringing awareness and equity to this important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, the month of May 2017, as:

## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May.

  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE